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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 001006

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/22/2017
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SUBJECT: ACTION REQUEST: PURSUING A GSOMIA WITH IRAQ

Classified By: Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad for reasons 1.4 (a), (b), and (d).

11. This is an action request. Please see para 4.

12. (C/REL MNF-I) The Iraqi military is increasingly buying major U.S. military equipment and technology that includes restricted material. In the absence of a bilateral General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), these procurements require either an Exception to National Disclosure Policy and/or a separate agreement signed by the GOI stating it will protect the classified military information to the same level of the United States. We believe that it makes sense to move quickly to initiate a GSOMIA as part of our long-term bilateral security relationship with Iraq.

13. (C/REL MNF-I) A GSOMIA would bind both countries to a series of mutually agreed standards and procedures for securing exchanged classified defense information. Initiating such an agreement would begin with a site visit to Iraq by Department of Defense to review the Iraqis classification and security clearance system and make recommendations. If the USG initiates a GSOMIA soon, we believe it will take at least a year to negotiate and conclude the agreement. An agreement would not require either country to exchange material but merely put the procedures in place to do so.

14. (SBU) We request Department's guidance on the above proposal as soon as possible.
KHALILZAD